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Application of import duties to durum wheat

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

For the first time in a number of years, on September 16, 2009 the European Commission applied a duty on durum wheat imported under harmonized code (CN) 1001 10 00. The applied duty was increased on October 1, and further increased on October 2.

General Information:

Durum wheat import duties (CN code 1001 10 00)

On September 16, 2009, the European Commission applied a duty on durum wheat imported under harmonized code (CN) 1001 10 00. The duty was increased on October 1 and further increased on October 2.

The European Union negotiated a bound duty of €148 for durum and other specified cereals in the Uruguay Round. [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1249/96](#) '*on rules of application (cereal sector import duties) for Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92*' outlines the method used to calculate the actual rate applied on specific cereals including durum. The import duty is equal to the intervention price increased by 55 percent minus the import price with adjustments made for quality and freight.

Legislation identifies the following components to be used in calculating the landed price:

- a. the representative exchange quotation on the market of the United States;
- b. the known commercial premiums and discounts attached to this quotation, in particular the meal quality;
- c. sea freight and associated costs between the United States (Gulf of Mexico or Duluth) and the port of Rotterdam for a vessel of at least 25,000 metric tons.

The landed price is calculated daily by the Commission and a two-week average is used to determine if a duty will be applied and to calculate the amount.

On the 15th and last working day of each month, the Commission calculates the landed price and if appropriate the applied duty, which will become effective the following day. If during the application of the duties fixed, the average import duty calculated differs by €5 per metric ton or more from that fixed, the corresponding adjustment is made. The duty is published in the Official Journal of European Communities when the duty is applied and when it changes.

The EU has a duty free quota of 50,000 metric tons for imported durum which was filled within two weeks of the duty being applied. At the time of writing, 11,000 metric tons of another duty free quota totaling 300,000 metric tons for common and durum wheat has been used.

For further information:

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1784/2003](#)

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 838/2009](#)

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 915/2009](#)

[Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 919/2009](#)